

## Message Text

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EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS FOR AMB FROM HOL3ROOKE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP, ASEAN, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE PLAYERS ON WASHINGTON SCENE

1. DURING ASEAN MEETING WE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOME OF THE SENIOR FILIPINOS IN ACTION ON THE WASHINGTON SCENE.
2. ROMULO WHEELS AND DEALS ON HIS OWN; HE HAS A HILL CONSTITUENCY -- MAINLY OLDER MEMBERS WHO ARE SOMEWHAT FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARDS THE PHILIPPINES. I BELIEVE HE MAY HELP THE PHILIPPINES' CAUSE SOMEWHAT, AND THAT HE DOES GET SOME IDEA OF HOW HIS COUNTRY IS PERCEIVED HERE.

3. FINMIN VIRATA WAS IMPRESSIVE IN ASEAN MEETINGS, ON HILL AND IN PRIVATE TALKS. HIS TECHNOCRAT STATUS, REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND FACT THAT SUCH A MAN IS WILLING TO  
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WORK IN MARCOS GOVERNMENT MAKE HIM PRIME CANDIDATE FOR FURTHER CONTACT WITH CONGRESS. VIRATA WILL BE BACK IN WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH FOR IMF MEETING, AND I SUGGEST YOU URGE HE VISIT THE HILL. PHILIPPINE CABINET MEMBERS USUALLY PREFER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY, BUT WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ASSIST IF HE WISHES.

4. SICAT, ALTHOUGH HE PLAYED A LESSER ROLE, WAS ALSO IMPRESSIVE, WITH HIS COMPETENCE AND COULD BE USEFUL WITH

CONGRESS IF HE COMES FOR THE COLOMBO PLAN MEETING.

5. INDUSTRY MINISTER PATERNO WAS VERY EFFECTIVE IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. HE TOO SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MEET WITH CONGRESS WHENEVER HE VISITS U.S.

6. DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER VALDEPENAS WAS AN ABLE PARTICIPANT IN DISCUSSIONS. HE PRESENTS A GOOD IMAGE OF SUB-CABINET TECHNOCRATS.

7. MRS. MARCOS WAS, AS USUAL, A DISASTER. HER PRE-ASEAN HUMAN RIGHTS PRESENTATION ON THE HILL DID NOT CONVINCE ANYONE (THOUGH A FEW WERE CHARITABLE ENOUGH TO GIVE HER CREDIT FOR COURAGE). SHE MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SFRC OR THE LUNCH AND DINNER SHE ATTENDED. HER STYLE, FADED GLORY AND REPUTATION NO LONGER HAVE ANY ATTRACTION FOR AMERICANS, AND THEY HAVE LITTLE TO SAY WHICH PLEASES HER. HER FELLOW ASEAN MINISTERS WERE NOT HAPPY WITH PRESENCE OF "QUEEN OF ASEAN" AND WERE VISIBLY RELIEVED THAT SHE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN MANY MEETINGS. ROMULO'S STAFF WAS OPENLY CRITICAL OF HER HORNING IN AND ONE OF THEM TOLD AN EA OFFICER THAT VALENCIA'S CRITICISM OF THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE  
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WAS STIMULATED BY IMELDA'S ENTOURAGE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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